Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below is intended to replace all prior listings of the claims:

1. (Original) An effervescent formulation comprising oxytocin.

2. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 1 comprising multilayer effervescent microspheres.

3. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 2 wherein the multilayer effervescent microspheres contain an acidic substance, a basic substance and water-soluble isolating agent.

4. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 3 wherein dissolution in water of the multilayer effervescent microspheres leads, after almost immediate effervescence, to a solution or a homogeneous dispersion of the oxytocin.

5. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 4 wherein the water-soluble isolating agent is dispersed in the entire bulk of each microsphere, the latter having a two-layer structure: a layer of acidic substance in which is dispersed the water-soluble isolating agent and a layer of alkaline substance in which is dispersed the water-soluble isolating agent.

6. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 4 wherein the water-soluble isolating agent is in the form of a thin film separating the acidic and alkaline substances such that each microsphere has a three-layer structure: a layer of acidic substance and a layer of alkaline substance separated by a layer of water-soluble isolating agent.

7. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the oxytocin is present in a unit dose amount of from 50 ng to 100 μg.

8. (Original) An effervescent formulation according to Claim 7 wherein the oxytocin is present in a unit dose amount of 340 ng to 11 μg.

9. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the formulation is presented in a tablet form.

10. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation according to ~~Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 wherein the formulation is presented in a powder form.

11. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the oxytocin is present within a microsphere.

12. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1 wherein the oxytocin is not present within a microsphere.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effervescent formulation according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Original) A process for making an effervescent formulation containing oxytocin.

17. (Original) A process according to Claim 16 wherein the effervescent formulation comprises multilayer effervescent microspheres containing an acidic substance, a basic substance, and a water-soluble isolating agent which upon dissolution in water leads, after almost immediate effervescence, to a solution or a homogeneous dispersion of oxytocin.

18. (Original) A process according to Claim 17 wherein the acidic and/or basic substances contains or contain oxytocin.

19. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 16 ~~or Claim 17~~ further comprising:

forming microspheres, wherein the oxytocin is not present in the microspheres.

20. (Original) A process according to Claim 18 which employs the method of rotary granulation in a fluidized air bed.

21. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~Claims 17 to 20~~ Claim 17 wherein basic substance also contains an edible dilutant and/or flavourings and/or sweeteners.

22. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~Claims 17 to 21~~ Claim 17 wherein the oxytocin is present in an amount to give from 50 ng to 100 μg in the final unit dosage form.

23. (Original) A process according to Claim 22 wherein the oxytocin is present in an amount to give from 340 ng to 11 μg in the final unit dosage form.

24. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of Claims 16 to 23~~ Claim 16 further comprising preparing the microspheres into a tablet.

25. (Original) A process according to Claim 24 wherein the oxytocin is present on or between the microspheres in the tablet.

26. (Currently amended) An effervescent formulation of oxytocin obtained or obtainable by the process of ~~any one of Claims 16 to 25~~ Claim 16.

27. (Currently amended) A method of induction or augmentation of labour or treating or preventing postpartum haemorrhage or treating missed abortion or facilitation of lactation comprising administering an effervescent formulation of oxytocin according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 13 and/or obtained or obtainable by a process as defined in any one of Claims 16 to 26 and/or a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 15~~ Claim 1.

28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the effervescent formulation is present in a pharmaceutical composition that includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.